the symptoms of an incurable disease of the lungs, struck his friends with dismay and despair. His devotion to his profession was at last so far conquered, that he consented to try the effect of a voyage to England, but before he reached that country he was called to the world of spirits.—This gentleman's private character was the most interesting, that can be imagined. A glance of his countenance explained to every one, that his soul was frank, generous and noble, that his sensibility was keen, and that he never thought of himself, when the happiness of others was in question. He was a glowing admirer of constitutional freedom, and viewing the United States, in the days of Washington, as the spot favoured by Heaven, he had a strong disposition to make it his permanent residence. His prospects are obscured and his plans of improvement are buried in the darkness of the tomb ; but he has left among us a monument, which every one will venerate, and which those, who personally knew him, will never regard without a sigh, on the recollection of his untimely fate.

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME DISEASED EYES.

BY J. C. WARREN, M. D.

THE following cases will not appear novel to those, who are very extensively engaged in surgical practice ; but to others, who rarely meet with disorders of the eye, and whose remote situation precludes their acquiring a knowledge of the improvements of the celebrated oculists of Europe, they may not be wholly destitute of utility.

Common Ophthalmia.

A young man, who had been exposed to cold and moisture, during a journey in the night, sent for me on account a violent

inflammation of the eyes. The eye-lids were covered with purulent mucus, and so much swelled, as to be separated from each other with great difficulty. It was just possible to ascertain, on inspecting the eye-ball, that its outer coat was swelled in such a way, as nearly to bury the cornea: and that the latter was completely opaque. The patient immediately had twelve ounces of blood drawn from the arm; a brisk purgative medicine was ordered, and the application of a weak solution of lead to the eye. In the afternoon, leeches were applied near the diseased part; and in the evening, the pulse remaining hard, the patient feverish, with much head ache, eight ounces of blood were drawn from the arm. The next day, the pains in the head and eye were less. He was bled eight ounces in the morning, blisters were applied behind the ears, leeches again to the eyes, and an occasional washing ordered of the eyes and forehead with warm water. He was bled again on the same evening. The two following days, he was bled morning and evening, and the swelling of the eyelids subsiding, a solution of sulphate of zinc was injected between the eyelids every hour. The inflammation subsided rapidly, so that in a week from the first application, the pupil became visible, and he finally recovered both eyes, except a slight opacity of one cornea.

When this case occurred, I had not met with the valuable work of Mr. Saunders, and did not know the extent to which he advises bleeding in these violent cases. Mr. Saunders recommends taking from sixteen to thirty-two ounces in twenty-four hours, or in short, as much as the patient can bear to lose. He considers local bleeding as not important, where the evacuation can be practiced generally.

Speck on the Cornea.

A lady was attacked with a moderate inflammation of the left eye, for which she did not think it necessary to consult any one, until it had lasted three or four days. On examining the eye, I found the redness of the conjunctiva not great; but, in the centre of the cornea, an opaque spot, obscuring the whole pupil, into which ran a cord of blood vessels from the

conjunctiva. I immediately passed a lancet into the conjunctiva, at a little distance from the vascular cord, and pushing it under the latter, brought the point out, at a little distance on the other side, by which means these vessels were fairly divided. The eye was at first bathed in warm water, and afterwards a solution of sulphate of zinc. On visiting her two days after, to my surprize, the speck and cord of vessels had wholly disappeared, and she soon recovered her sight.

A boy, about fourteen years old, son of a gentleman in this town, had an inflammation of both eyes, which being vigorously combatted was checked at the end of ten or twelve days; but a speck then appeared on the left cornea, and a row of blood vessels penetrating it from below. Being requested to see him by Dr. Jackson, who attended, we concurred as to the propriety of dividing these vessels. I passed a small cornea knife into the conjunctiva, and divided this membrane, below the cornea, as extensively as possible. The speck was materially lessened on the following day, and afterward gradually disappeared.

Protrusion of the Iris.

A young lady, at play with her brother, had a sharp pointed stick thrust through the cornea, which was immediately followed by a protrusion of the lower part of the iris through the orifice. She would not allow the eyelids to be opened afterward, and therefore nothing material was done for her during the first seven or eight days, at the end of which time, she was brought to Boston. On examination it appeared, that the portion of iris pushed out and swelled, was about the size of a pea. So far as could be judged, it did not adhere on all sides to the edges of the wounded cornea, through which it passed. The conjunctiva was inflamed, and the eyelid was irritated continually, in shutting it over the tumour. With great difficulty she was made to consent to any application, and for two or three days, on every attempt, she closed the eye at once. At last I succeeded in touching a broad surface of lunar caustic to the diseased part. The pain was so slight and lasted so short a time, that she consented more readily to the applica-

tion on the following day, and this was regularly made for ten or twelve times afterward, but never exceeded a slight touch, as she uniformly closed the eyelids, or distorted the eye, at the instant the impulse from the application was perceived. In this time the tumour was wholly removed. The cornea remained smooth and the conjunctiva free from inflammation. The iris was, of course, greatly distorted, being drawn from the original pupil to the edge of the sclerotic coat; so that the pupil was rendered oblong; nor was there any contracting power in the iris, so long as she remained under my care. The vision of this eye was, however, perfect, so far as could be ascertained, and its appearance was not unpleasant.

Sloughing of the Cornea and protrusion of the Iris.

A patient came into the Alms house in Boston, with a bad inflammation of the eyes, apparently of a scrophulous or low character. The conjunctiva was not highly coloured nor swelled. The cornea had lost its transparency, and had a flaccid, dead appearance. The state of these organs and of the patient's health was such, as that the loss of vision seemed inevitable. He was ordered to take cinchona and full allowance of wine, to have the eyes bathed with a solution of sulphate of zinc, and blisters on the temples. A copious and unhealthy discharge continued, and in a few days a portion of the cornea of one eye sloughed off, and a small part of the iris protruded. He was now directed to wash the eyes, especially that in which the iris protruded, with a solution of nitrate of silver, (two grains of nitrate to an ounce of water) and from this time, the eyes began to mend. The opacity slowly disappeared, together with the redness of the conjunctiva; the eyes gradually recovered their plumpness and the protruded iris separated. At the end of two months he obtained a tolerable degree of vision, and full as great in the eye where the protrusion had taken place, as in the other, although the pupil was materially distorted. Small black points, the extremities of the iris, are still seen near the edge of the cornea and sclerotica, with the latter of which they seem to be incorporated.

Siphilitic inflammation of the Iris and speck of the Cornea.

A foreigner came under my care who had for many months laboured under a succession of siphilitic complaints. He had been recently cured of sore throat; and lately had a fresh ulceration in that part. Judging from the appearance of the latter, and from the history of the case, that this ulceration was not siphilitic, he was directed to pursue a tonic course, which soon cured his throat. In the mean time his eyes, which had some time been disordered, grew worse. On the cornea of the left eye was an opaque speck, of a firm appearance, and connected with vessels in the conjunctiva. The iris of the same eye was contracted to about a sixth part of its common diameter, and the vision of that eye nearly lost. He had also deep seated pains in the head. The enlarged vessels, going to the speck in the cornea, were divided; but without any good effect. This operation was twice repeated with no greater advantage. He was now ordered to take a solution of muriate of mercury three times a day, to have the opaque spot touched with nitrate of silver every other day, and to be blistered continually. It soon appeared that the spot was lessened by the application, and the *iris* seemed at present, to be the principal object for attention. We proceeded therefore to apply to the eye the extract of belladonna in substance. Its action on the iris was at first small but sensible. By a continued use of it, the muriate being taken during the same time, the pupil gradually dilated, and in the space of seven or eight weeks, the power of that eye was in a good measure restored. On omitting the belladonna for some days, the disposition of the iris to contract was apparent. He soon after left me in perfect health, and on quitting town to resume his occupation, came to beg a small portion of the balladonna, that he might apply it himself, if the contraction should reappear.—For suggesting the valuable application of the remedy, in this disease, we are indebted to the late Mr. Saunders.

Injury of the globe of the Eye.

A labourer, engaged in blowing rocks, in the District of Maine, had the misfortune to suffer from an explosion of the

powder he was beating in the rock, by which a part of his right hand was torn off and his face and eyes greatly injured. He remained many months, wholly destitute of sight and in a hopeless condition, notwithstanding the use of multifarious remedies. Having a large family, whom he was entirely unable to sustain, his charitable neighbours took compassion on him, and collected a sum sufficient to carry him to Boston, and subsist him there, if there was hope of his situation being improved. When he arrived, he was the awkwardest blind man possible: for he was unable to cross any common room, without great difficulty, unless assisted. He was sensible to light, but could distinguish nothing. The right eye was most injured; its cornea was so uniformly opaque, that only a small spot remained at one edge, through which the iris could be discovered. The cornea of the other eye was in some measure obscured; but the whole of the iris was visible, and appeared studded with small white flakes of coagulated lymph. Similar flakes were attached to the inside of the cornea and floated partially in the sphere of vision. I was embarrassed as to the best mode of treating this man; and hesitated whether to attempt any thing: but as his situation could hardly be rendered worse, I at first thought of two procedures; to endeavour to make an artificial pupil in the worst eye, at the only transparent part; and to puncture the cornea of the other eye, disengage and extract the flakes of lymph, which formed the principal obstacle to vision. Previous to the adoption of these methods, I concluded to try a milder course, which consisted in exciting the action of the absorbents to remove the opacity of the cornea, and take up those lymphatic concretions, which, having been long adherent, had no doubt become a part of the living organ; while, at the same time, methods were adopted to divert the course of those fluids, which nourished the diseased parts. First, therefore, the vessels of the conjunctiva were divided above and below the cornea, in each eye; seizing this membrane with a fine hook, it was excised with curved eye-scissars, as extensively as could be. Then a permanent blister was established on the back of the neck, and two grains of calomel given morning and

evening. During the two days after the excision, he remained much the same. On the third, he was convinced he could see better than before; but on the fourth, both eyes were very much inflamed. He had eaten too liberally. A purgative was directed. As low a regimen, as he could exist on, prescribed. Twelve ounces of blood were ordered to be drawn from the arm daily; and he had a solution of sulphate of zinc to bathe the eyes; the calomel being continued. The inflammation remained obstinate for many days, till on the fifteenth from the excision, his eyes were quite easy, the redness of the conjunctiva had greatly diminished, and I found his mouth sore. The quantity of calomel was then lessened. In the following days, his mouth was more affected, and at last there appeared as violent a salivation as I have witnessed. Water poured in a continued stream from his mouth, day and night. He could sleep little, and took no nourishment for three or four days. The salivation continued about three weeks in the whole, during which no great opportunity offered of making a fair experiment with the eyes. After this, having accustomed him gradually to light, which had been wholly excluded, different objects were presented to him; and I had the satisfaction of finding that he could distinguish a hand, a cane and other objects of somewhat smaller size, with the right eye; with the left he saw nothing, though the opacity was lessened. This, being a degree of vision, which I had not ventured to anticipate, and being fully adequate to enable him to pursue the business which maintained him, I did not think proper to try any other experiment, and dismissed him. Before he left town, he was able to walk through the streets without an attendant, and with moderate confidence.